Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 6697

E O 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IS, FR

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND FRANCE

REF: TEL AVIV 4019 (NOTAL)

- 1. MEROZ, ASSIST DIRGEN FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF FONMIN, REVIEWED FOR EMBOFF AUG 22 STATE OF FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS.
- 2. ACCORDING TO MEROZ, THREE RECENT DISCUSSIONS ISRAELI AMB HAD HAD IN QUAI SHOWED THRE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN FUNDAMENTALS OF FRENCH POLICY TOWARD MID EAST AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER, SINCE JOBERT'S EMERGENCE AS FONMIN, THERE HAD BEEN SOME FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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NUANCING OF LANGUAGE. JOBERT IN JUNE HAD REPLIED IN PARLIAMENT

TO CENTRIST DEPUTY'S QUERY ABOUT IMBALANCE IN OFFICIAL VISITS BETWEEN FRANCE AND MID EAST REPS BY ACKNOWLEDGING IMBALANCE AND SAYING IT SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY EXCHANGE OF VISITS WITH ISRAEL. BUT JOBERT QUALIFIED THIS BY STRESSING THAT EBAN SHOULD COME TO PARIS FIRST (THIS WAS NO PROBLEM, MEROZ SAID) AND THAT CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED CHANGES IN ISRAELI POSTURE SHOULD COME ABOUT FIRST.

3. MEROZ SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME FRANCO-ISRAELI DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY NATURE OF POSSIBLE EBAN VISIT TO PARIS, BUT NOTHING HAD COME OF IT. FRENCH DROPPED PREVIOUS LINE THAT TIME NOT RIPE BUT TOOK POSITION THAT MODALITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED LATER. MEROZ'S GUESS WAS THERE WOULD BE NO EBAN VISIT TO PARIS IN NEAR FUTURE BUT THAT FRENCH GENERALLY WOULD BE MORE CAREFUL IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONCERNING ISRAEL. KEATING

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